

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1, 10, and 17 have been amended herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of suggesting printer upgrades based upon actual usage, comprising:

conveying a print job to a printer said printer including at least one functional characteristic, said print job requiring the utilization of said at least one functional characteristic;

assigning a numerical value to the degree of utilization of said at least one functional characteristic;

maintaining said numerical value in a memory of said printer;

accessing information on a selection of upgrades available for said printer;

comparing said information to said numerical value to select a preferred upgrade using inputs of said individual numerical values into a logic protocol to arrive at an output value;
and

suggesting said preferred upgrade to a user of said printer for installation on said printer based upon said output value.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, where said printer includes a plurality of functional characteristics.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, where said print job further comprises requiring the utilization of a number of said plurality of functional characteristics.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
assigning individual numerical values to the degree of utilization of each of said plurality of functional characteristics; and
maintaining said individual numerical values in said memory of said printer.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, where comparing said information to said numerical value to select a preferred upgrade further comprises analyzing said individual numerical values to select said preferred upgrade based upon a number of said individual values.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, where comparing said information to said numerical value to select a preferred upgrade further comprises inputting said individual numerical values into a formula to arrive at an output value and then selecting said preferred upgrade based upon said output value.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, where suggesting said selected upgrade further comprises sending an email to said user detailing the availability of said selected upgrade.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, where accessing information on said selection of upgrades further comprises accessing information embedded in said memory on said printer.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, where accessing information on said selection of upgrades further comprises downloading said information from a network server attached to the internet.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of tracking printer use to suggest an appropriate upgrade, comprising:
- tracking usage of functional characteristics of a printer in a computer memory;
 - assigning fuzzy value scores to said usage of each of said functional characteristics of the printer using a logic protocol for such usage of said functional characteristics for an output value;
 - accessing information on a selection of available upgrades for maintenance of said printer, said information containing individual selection scores for each of said selection of available upgrades for said printer based upon the usage of the functional characteristics of the printer;
 - comparing said fuzzy value scores having an output value to said selection scores to select a preferred upgrade available for the printer; and
 - suggesting said preferred upgrade to a user of said printer based on said output value.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, where suggesting said selected upgrade further comprises sending an email to said user detailing the availability of said selected upgrade.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, where accessing information on said selection of upgrades further comprises accessing information embedded in a memory on said printer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, where accessing information on said selection of upgrades further comprises downloading said information from a network server attached to the internet.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, where comparing said fuzzy value scores to said selection scores further comprises analyzing said fuzzy value scores for each of said functional characteristics to select said preferred upgrade based directly upon the fuzzy value scores for each of said functional characteristics.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, where comparing said fuzzy value scores to said selection scores further comprises inputting said fuzzy value scores into a formula to arrive at an output value and then selecting said preferred upgrade based upon said output value.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, where selecting said preferred upgrade comprises selecting a software upgrade.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for providing user responsive printer maintenance, comprising:

a printer including a memory;

a usage record stored within said memory, said usage record including a history of a utilization of functional characteristics of said printer;

a selection database stored within said memory, said selection database containing information on a number of upgrades for improving the functions of said printer;

a microprocessor located within said printer, said microprocessor capable of following a set of instructions to select a preferred upgrade by analyzing said usage record using a fuzzy logic protocol for forming an output value using said fuzzy logic protocol and comparing said analysis to said selection database for selecting an upgrade based upon said output value.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a web server incorporated in said printer, said web server in communication with a computer network and configured to download said information on a number of upgrades for maintaining said printer into said selection database.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, where said web server is further configured to assemble and convey a message detailing said preferred upgrade to a user of said printer.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, where said message is an email message.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a workstation in communication with said printer, said workstation capable of conveying a print job to said printer such that said print job is printed by said printer, utilizing one or more of said functional characteristics.